



**Position Title:** Interim Middle School Music Teacher

**Department:** Middle School

**FLSA Classification:** Exempt

**Reports to:** Head of Middle School

**Full/Part Time:** Full Time

**Date Modified:** July 2023

**Start Date:** August 2023

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### **About St. John's**

St. John's is an independent, coeducational Episcopal school serving up to 500 students in grades pre-k through eight. Located in a park-like setting on 10 acres in East Dallas, the School offers its employees and students a supportive esprit de corps fueled by a common mission – one dedicated to a program of academic excellence designed to train the mind, strengthen the character, and enrich the spirit of each student in a Christian environment. We think of St. John's not only as a school, but also as a very special kind of community. We seek to employ people who – regardless of the role they play in the School – understand that they impact the lives of our students, families, and colleagues. The St. John's Code calls us to model honesty and respectfulness in our relationships, responsibility in the performance of our assignments, and a caring attitude that extends to all members of our community. Do you dream of becoming the best educator you can? Of coming to work each day with a sense of mastery, belonging, and purpose? Of working with fun, collegial, collaborative, growth-minded professionals? If so, you could thrive at St. John's.

### **Position Purpose**

This full-time, interim position requires the teacher to teach Middle School music in an environment that values collaboration, curricular integration, and differentiated instruction. The teacher will teach general, choral, and instrumental music classes to fifth and sixth graders and quarterly music-related electives to seventh and eighth graders. The electives will include a multi-quarter musical theatre production co-taught with the School's Theatre Integration Specialist and Visual Arts Integration Specialist.

The Middle School music teacher collaborates with artistic and academic colleagues to develop natural, relevant, effective, and appropriate connections between musical instruction/performance opportunities and students' academic coursework. In addition, the music teacher supports the School's chapel program by preparing Middle School students to contribute to the Episcopal Schools Sunday service (October), the Lessons & Carols chapel service (December), and the Sheepfold service (May). A



separate chapel musician supports chapel services; however, occasional musical assistance is needed in daily chapel from the Middle School music teacher.

The Middle School music teacher continues the work begun in Primary and Lower School by deepening students' choral and instrumental skills, nurturing an appreciation for and interest in the arts, demonstrating a commitment to the growth and developmental needs of pre- and early-adolescent children, and enthusiastically sharing passion for the arts with the School community.

### **Key Accountabilities**

- Instruct students in general music practice; assess and ensure student progress.
- Sing and lead classes with proper vocal techniques; accompany on piano (preferred) or guitar.
- Select appropriate music and materials to contribute to age-appropriate understanding, technique, and appreciation of music.
- Broaden students' music history knowledge by teaching about music in cultures around the world.
- Co-produce a musical theatre production each school year.
- Prepare students for grade-level integrations and special concerts and performances, such as for and Grandest Friends Day.
- Cultivate culturally competent music classrooms by establishing and maintaining a respectful and conscientious environment.
- Maintain a positive, actively engaged classroom environment that enhances student learning, encourages risk-taking, shares appreciation for effort, and one in which students feel supported and excited to individually and collaboratively showcase their talents.
- Care for and maintain School-owned musical equipment and instruments.
- Participate in continuous curriculum evaluation with grade-level and vertical peers.
- Collaborate with vertical team members to ensure music curriculum continuity between Lower and Middle School and as students progress through Middle School. The vertical team monitors and advances the quality of the overall program and the progress and success of students.
- Maintain curriculum documentation in accordance with Middle School division requirements.
- Understand and meet the developmental and academic needs of Middle School students of varying academic, social and emotional abilities. Differentiate instruction to meet individual student needs.
- Adapt instructional strategies to accommodate the needs of students with diagnosed learning differences according to the accommodations outlined on Student Support Plans.
- Provide feedback to students and parents using a variety of tools including progress and grade reports, in-person and video conferences, phone calls, emails, and one-on-one meetings. The



teacher is expected to write thoughtful, meaningful, and well-articulated comments that reflect students' progress and give specific direction for growth.

- Maintain daily lesson plans and effectively use the Student Information System, Learning Management System, and various other online tools. The teacher is expected to electronically record attendance, gradebooks, and reports.
- Attend and contribute to regular grade-level, vertical, divisional, and all-employee meetings.
- Fulfill other duties as assigned, such as lunch, recess, study hall, and/or carpool duty. Participate fully in the School community through club sponsorship, coaching, event attendance, or by other means, such as the formation and sponsorship of an extracurricular choir.
- Adapt curriculum and instructional modalities as necessary based on whether learning is taking place on campus, at home, or in a hybrid/blended environment. Demonstrate technical proficiency and the ability to plan, organize, teach, and communicate in person, to a blended in-person/online class, and in synchronous and asynchronous online environments.

### **Opportunities and Challenges**

The Middle School music teacher contributes to the development of students' music- and performance-related skills as the teacher helps students practice effective habits and attitudes in their fulfillment of class expectations. The teacher maintains classroom and rehearsal environments that positively support the contributions of each student. The teacher must:

- Model the St. John's Code of respect, responsibility, honesty, and care.
- Demonstrate clarity in verbal and written communication.
- Demonstrate strong listening skills, with the ability to work collaboratively with students, parents, and colleagues.
- Share a passion for music and music education, as well as a commitment to helping students develop their musical abilities and appreciation for diverse musical traditions.
- Embrace the School's Episcopal Identity, ethos, and commitment to respecting the dignity of each individual.

### **Growth Mindset**

- Collaborate with colleagues on the development of curriculum and in the practice of instructional strategies.
- Leverage the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the Student Formation Team in support of students' academic, social, and emotional needs.
- Pursue growth in relevant technology skills.
- Network with peers at other local and national independent and Episcopal schools.



- Demonstrate commitment to personal and professional growth, including the ability to meaningfully receive, reflect on, and apply feedback to one's professional growth. Maintain membership in arts-affiliated organizations.
- Attend conferences and professional meetings to remain current with music curriculum, instructional strategies, culturally responsive instruction, and social and emotional learning.

### **Qualifications**

- A Bachelor's degree in music education or performance required; an advanced degree preferred.
- Two-to-four years of experience teaching music, preferably in a school environment with pre- and early-adolescent students.
- Knowledge/competence in developing healthy vocal techniques and proper classroom instrument techniques in young musicians is required.
- Background training and certification in a major method of music education (i.e., the Kodaly or Orff methods) is desired.
- Piano accompaniment skills and experience conducting small choral and instrumental ensembles are preferred.
- Knowledge of and experience with multicultural music forms from around the world.
- Demonstrated ability to design and deliver lessons in hybrid/blended and online learning environments.
- Must meet minimum technology proficiency standards, including the ability to work in online Student Information and Learning Management Systems, to schedule and conduct classes via Microsoft Teams and Zoom, and to use the Microsoft 365 suite.

### **Physical Requirements**

- Ability to lift approximately 30 lbs.
- Ability to work for extended periods of time, including weeknights and weekends when required.
- Ability to work with children and adults in indoor and outdoor settings.
- Ability to work in on-campus, home, day trip, and overnight trip settings.

### **How to Apply**

For questions, more information, or to submit your letter of interest, resume, and application in PDF format, please contact:



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In our commitment to diversity and equity, St. John's Episcopal School does not discriminate regarding race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, age, genetic information, disability, pregnancy, marital status, religion, military status, and/or any protected category. This commitment extends to our employment, educational, admission, and financial-aid policies, and other school-administered programs.